



City of Bloomington

Environmental Commission

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:00 pm
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

Attending:

Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Carrie Albright (Chair), Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Deborah Myerson, Sean Gorman, Dianne May, Diane Jung, and Kriste Lindberg, Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow)

Absent:

Andy Williams

- I. Introductions (1 min) (Time mark 7:09 pm)
- II. Announcements (2 min) (Time mark 7:10 pm)
 - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, April 18th, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: March 27th, April 11th, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
 - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: April 17th, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
 - D. Next BCOS meeting: April 9th, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: April 10th, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North (2nd Wed of the month)
 - F. MCMGA Garden Fair: April 6th, 9:00 – 4:00, IN National Guard Armory
 - G. Echo Heroes award ceremony: April 24th, 5:30 pm, City Hall atrium
- III. Approval of February Minutes (3 min) (Time mark 7:12 pm)
 - A. Dedaimia asks that all the names of those who volunteered to assist with the Eco Heroes Award Ceremony and the Garden show be added to the February minutes.
 - B. Litwin moves to approve with the understanding that those names will be filled in, Julian seconds. Jung and May abstain. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment (1 min) (Time mark 7:15 pm)
- V. Committee reports and discussions (75 min) (Time mark 7:16 pm)
 - A. Planning Committee & St. Environmental Planner (35 min: Julian, Jung, Litwin, Thompson)
 - 1. Childs School
 - i. The school wants to build an 8 foot, at-grade paved exercise path on their property which is largely in a floodway and are requesting a variance.
 - ii. The ECPC reached a consensus that they would not advocate denying the project but would support a recommendation that the school does not choose asphalt and that they

naturalize the area, perhaps using the trail as an educational resource. The recommendations would also include an expression of concern regarding the proposed structure which extends partway into the waterway.

VI.

1. “10 North Bank” project for the Waffle House Location by 10 North Holdings
 - i. The plan requires a few variances including a variance for a drive through for the first-floor bank.
 - ii. Thompson has already suggested that the designers devise better green infrastructure on a tree-lined street.
 - a. Thompson would like to recommend a tree trench or a tree plot instead of tree grates, and additional trees.
 - b. Thomson will consult with Lee Huss regarding the best type of tree for the location.
 - iii. The EC would like to recommend space for recycling, as well a Green Roof and green building practices.
 - iv. The EC would also like to know the fate of the stormwater from the interior parking lots and if there is any filtering of stormwater before it enters the storm system.

B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (15 min: Jung, Lindberg)

1. L4L has funding for 50 new signs which will be ready soon, and is looking for more funding sources.
 - i. Jung asserts this isn't really enough considering last year 15 signs were handed out at the Garden Show.
 - ii. Kasnak and Jung have both put in requests to the Center for Sustainable Living as well as the Unitarian Church and they should hear back Tuesday.
 - iii. Also bumper stickers are a possibility in the future.
2. A service learning project proposal involving creating an interactive simulation of decision making in the process of creating a garden is in the works, and Jung plans to tie this in to an Archer Foundation Grant to be submitted for a November deadline.
3. Jung is also still looking at the Audubon Society
4. Jung met with Claire Cumberland from the Monroe County Environmental Commission who is considering writing an article about how natural lawns fare better than treated lawns during droughts.
5. Possible monthly outreach activity at the Farmer's Market.
 - i. Give-away lavender sachets
 - ii. Seeds from the Wiley House
 - iii. A butterfly attractor exhibit
 - iv. Hand-made paper share
 - v. Recipe for poison-ivy killer that's non-toxic
 - vi. Mason bee habitat show and tell

C. BEQI Committee (5 min) (Albright, Moncavage, Piepenburg)

1. Piepenburg has largely finished data collection for the air quality section and is finishing up a draft to be reviewed by the commission.
2. Once a complete draft is put forward more time will be spent at an EC meeting going over the details of the draft.

D. Eco Hero Award Committee (5 min: Albright, Lindberg, Gorman)

1. Kasnak has been wrapping up correspondence.
2. This coming Thursday, March 28th, is the deadline for submission.
3. The committee will sit down to schedule and plan the event after the submissions come in.
 - i. The next EC meeting will be 6 or so days before the event, so the event will be discussed further at that meeting.

E. Garden Show (5 min: Jung)

1. The Garden Show is 9am-4pm, setup is 7:00-8:30am. Diane Jung will be there throughout.
 - i. Gorman volunteers to help set up and work some in the morning.
 - ii. Albright will come sometime in the middle of the day to relieve Jung.
 - iii. Lindberg, Thompson and Whitney said they would come for some time but are unsure when they will arrive.
 - iv. Kasnak will attend as well.
 - v. Jung will discuss with Kasnak to check on the status of distribution materials and conduct an inventory.

F. Tree Commission (10 min: Whitney)

1. The Tree Commission feels that the EC's intention to deliver the message that a chemical solution is not a good idea and will force people into Lowes/Menards in order to tackle the EAB problem on their own in ways that are more harmful than the chemical treatment.
2. Lee Huss is planning a demonstration of the chemical Ash tree treatment as an educational opportunity for the community.
3. Whitney informed the Tree Commission that the EC is interested in assisting in the design and delivery of educational materials.
 - i. The Tree Commission is enthusiastic about EC interest.
4. Whitney was impressed by the Tree Commissions wide-lens view of trees in Bloomington and their concern about Bloomington's overall canopy.

VII. Old Business (10 min)

(Time mark 8:31 pm)

A. Internship Postings (10 min, Thompson)

1. Two intern positions are available for the summer, each for 20 hours a week at \$10/hour.
 - i. One intern will focus on the Green House Gas Reduction Plan and the other will focus on the Greenspace Report.
2. Thompson would like commissioners to be involved in the interview process who are aware of the kind of questions that would be pertinent to ask.
3. EC member volunteers are needed to mentor interns.
 - i. The EC member would be responsible for generally overseeing the project, doing some editing and meeting with the intern possibly every 2-3 weeks.
4. Whitney will send the internship posting to the Franklin Biology Department.
5. Jung recommends that specific professors be contacted with the internship descriptions.

VIII. New Business (5 min)

(Time mark 8:40 pm)

A. Committee Volunteers

- i. Eco Hero ceremony
- ii. Public Education committee (in response to EAB plan)
- iii. Garden show

IX. Commissioner Announcements (30 min)

(Time mark 8:45 pm)

- A. Lindberg mentions that the Severe Weather Watchers class offered by the Parks and Recreation Department will be on March 26th in the McCloskey room from 6:30 to 8 pm and they will have a drawing for 10 free weather radios.
- B. Thompson attended a seminar on native plants by Eco Logic and heard an excellent talk by Kevin Tunesvick related to climate change and how to change your planting paradigm as temperatures increase.
 1. Thompson suggests inviting Tunesvick to come from Muncie and give the talk to the EC and other interested groups.

- i. Tungesvick charges an ambiguous fee equivalent to the cost of transportation and convenience for his talk.
- 2. Albright and Lindberg suggest early or mid-May would be the latest time for the talk to be relevant for the current planting season, and that the EC should reach out to BCOS and the Master Gardener Association and other groups to attend the talk.
- C. Myerson announces that her SPEA V450 course “Cities and Urban Planning” conducted a service learning project in which they developed a plan for bike pedestrian access for the 7th Street corridor between Indiana Avenue and the Bypass.
 - 1. The class will be giving presentations regarding their findings on April 23rd in the McCloskey Room and April 25th in the Persimmon Room in the IU Student Union. Both presentations will occur at 1:00 pm on their respective days.
- D. May has been given a position as a columnist for Roots and Shoots as part of her involvement with the Master Gardener Association; she plans to write about the clover lawn.
- E. Jung noticed a plea from the Renaissance Farm & Permaculture Center for letters of support for the organization as they are facing complaints regarding possible permitting and zoning violations with some structures on their property
 - 1. Jung asks whether the Commission would like to write such a letter.
 - 2. The hearing date is Wednesday, April 3rd at the Courthouse.
 - 3. Albright suggests that there may not be time for the EC to weigh in officially as a group, but that perhaps individual commissioners could write independent letters if they so choose.
 - 4. Albright adds that the County Environmental Commission is in support of granting a variance.
 - i. Litwin asks Jung to pass along the information to the County Environmental Commission.
- F. Julian reminds the EC of a Forum on Public Education occurring on Saturday March 23rd.
 - 1. The event will include panel discussions on public education in general and other educational topics.
- G. Litwin attended the “Master Plan” Steering Committee meeting, and says that the issues are not of great interest to the EC, but the next meeting is scheduled at the same time as the Planning Committee Meeting, so he will not be able to attend.
- H. Albright attended the County EC Meeting.
 - 1. The County EC has a monthly theme and invites guests from the county department to discuss various issues that affect their commission and how they weigh in.
 - 2. The commissioners agree that this might be a model they would like to try for the Bloomington EC.
- I. Albright also mentions that she will be out of town for the next meeting and is open to suggestions about improving communication for missed meetings.
 - 1. She also bought a house!

X. Adjournment

(Time mark 9:13 pm)

- A. Albright moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Whitney seconds. The motion passes unanimously.